

Appl. No. 09/677,375
Amdt. Dated March 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action Of December 31, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (withdrawn).

- Claim 6 (previously amended) An endotoxin removal adsorbent comprising a ligand immobilized on a solid phase support medium, the ligand consisting essentially of a mixture of oligopeptides, of which at least one oligopeptide is a branched oligopeptide, said oligopeptides being composed of one or more amino acids having a pK > 7.2, said oligopeptides being polydisperse with respect to molecular weight and to number of branches per molecule.
- Claim 7 (original) The adsorbent of claim 6 wherein the solid phase support medium is porous sufficient to allow passage of blood cells therethrough.
- Claim 8 (original) The adsorbent of claim 6 wherein the solid phase support medium is in the form of beads.
- Claim 9 (original) The adsorbent of claim 6 wherein the ligand is covalently bound to the solid phase support medium.
- Claim 10 (original) The adsorbent of claims 6, 8 or 9 wherein the amino acid is selected from the group consisting of arginine, lysine and histidine.

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Claim 11 (original) The adsorbent of claims 8 or 9 wherein said oligopeptides are polydisperse with an R_f value of 0.4 or greater as measured by thin layer chromatography on silica gel using a system of $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}_3:\text{CH}_3\text{OH}:\text{NH}_3/40:40:20$ in 45% NH_3 solution.

Claim 12 (original) The adsorbent of claims 8 or 9 wherein said oligopeptides are polydisperse with an R_f value of 0.6 or greater as measured by thin layer chromatography on silica gel using a system of $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}_3:\text{CH}_3\text{OH}:\text{NH}_3/40:40:20$ in 45% NH_3 solution.

Claim 13 (original) The adsorbent of claims 8, 9, 11 or 12 wherein the amino acid is arginine.

Claims 14-26 (withdrawn).